

SUBSTRATES

Suitable Substrates for Laminate Work

Good quality particleboard and medium or high density fiberboards are satisfactory for use as substrates since they supply the degree of rigidity needed to support the laminate and offer a suitable face for bonding. Many particleboards are engineered for flatness. These boards have, for example, strata of varying chip size with the finer chips at the surface. Their dimensional movement is similar to that of high pressure decorative.

The face of the substrate should be sanded smooth and be free from grease, wax, dust, or other contaminants which would interfere with adhesion. It should also be free of chips or other foreign matter which might show through the decorative surfacing after bonding.

Plywood may be used in some applications, but its dimensional movement is significantly less than high pressure decorative laminate. This may result in potential panel warpage, stress cracking, and open seams.

Unsuitable Substrates

Concrete, plaster board, gypsum board, plaster and similar materials are not recommended because their internal bond strength is not sufficient for this application.